



# UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Public Administration and Organisation Science

destination city & country	Melbourne , Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	29 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 11 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>The process is quite long and takes various (small) tasks. First you have to apply through International Office from Utrecht University. When you hear that you are selected for the program abroad, then you still have to wait for the host university. Monash University requires you to send multiple documents as part of their application process, but I think it is the same for other universities abroad. The whole process took from March/April (I suppose) and it was just at the end of June that I was really a 100% sure of my spot. Probably stresses you a bit, but the host university does not give a full guarantee of your spot just in case something happens (a small chance). I booked my flights after the complete approve and after I got my visa, just in case, but you can figure that out for yourself. You will get there eventually!</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>After the International Office selects you for a destination, there is not much left they can do for you. With the application for that part they helped out alright, but take into account that the international office is not opened the full week so it takes a bit of time for a response or action.</p>
academic preparation	<p>No need I guess.</p>
language preparation	<p>Did not do any. I think it is best to go to your destination and go and explore as much as you can!</p>
Finances	<p>For a destination as Australia, I would definitely recommend saving up money. Of course it depends on how crazy you go with your normal lifestyle (groceries, eating out, going out, shopping etc.) and how much you want to see (travel around), but an average person would like to see as much as possible while they are in Australia. The costs of living are not that much higher than here if you take into consideration the currency, but all the slight bits make life down under more expensive then you expect. Concerning travelling, that is doable. If you go on trips with friends and split bills of cars, stays etc., then you can see a lot for not that much money!</p>

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>Faculty of Arts with the units "Contemporary Australia", "Intercultural Communication", "Poverty, Climate Change and International Justice" and "Political Psychology"</p>
academic quality of education activities	



Not very satisfied. The subjects that the units covered were very interesting. However, the lectures were mostly not much more than a summary of the texts and the tutorials were just 45 minutes, did not add much depth and there was not much engagement of other students, so not any interesting conversations/discussions. The units also focussed a lot on deadlines, so I had to write quite some essays etc., but it did not feel like I had learned much of writing them.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Just the same as here: if you ask for help, there is. I do think though that the teachers there treated us more like younger students and because of that were more focussed on being friendly, than really thinking along or being critical.

transfer of credits

Fair, you study one full semester in which you have to do four units. Just like in the Netherlands.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the start of your exchange period there are a lot of welcoming events. At first it seems like a full schedule, but you can decide how much you really want to visit. I would definitely recommend going to quite a bit, since you can meet other students there that are not in the same housing or lectures/tutorials. Of course you get the corny and awkward 'get to know each other' questions and games, but if you find your people you will be fine.

accommodation

You can choose between accomodation on campus and in the city. I think you will have a great time either way, just different. Friends of mine lived on campus and in this way met others from uni, but they lived that far from the city that they just went there once a month. I chose for accomodation in the city and I loved to explore the city in my time off. Public transport in melbourne is very easy and brings you everywhere. The city has so many area's and cool places to discover, so while you are here just make the most of it!

leisure & culture

So much to do! Hanging out with friends, going out or to festivals, museums, brunch/lunch/coffees, roadtrips, live music gigs, you name it and Melbourne has it.

suggestions/tips

I got a job on the side just for fun, to experience how it is to work in a bar and to meet other people besides your housemates or study friends. You are able to get to know 'locals'!

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

For sure! Because of all of the fun above. You will enjoy studying abroad in any spot because it is such a cool adventure. Though I think that studying in Australia gives you the chance to explore the whole continent! Plus, it is a real advantage that it is an english speaking country, so people do not have to switch languages to speak to you so it is easier to mingle.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

It is half a year that is completely different and seperated from your life back home, so try to do things that you normally would not do! Maybe a new sport, maybe other friends, another job, etc. etc.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	07 / 07 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	07 / 12 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	<p>For anyone, but especially UCR students, applying for exchange is quite cumbersome. I personally found that I had to do a lot of paperwork and preparation - including subletting forms; application forms for UCR, UU and Monash; rental agreements; course research and applications; orientation applications; visa applications; banking- and phone deals abroad; etcetera. Knowing that it would enable me to go abroad made it all worth it, but I would sometimes have liked a little more clarity in what exactly I had to do – especially at the times no one would email me back in the Australian office, which could be a real pain with the time difference. I would stay up until 2am sometimes in order to reply to their emails right away and hopefully correspond with them normally. I ran into the problem that I was not accepted to my host universities of choice (which were all in Canada), but I must say that despite ending up in Australia – by choice, of course – I could not have had a better time if I tried.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University	<p>I did not make use of any counselling at UU, but I did get plenty support from the exchange officer who oversaw the Australian exchange students at the time I went. I went to the pre-departure meeting and although that one did not add much for me personally because I had already done a lot of research beforehand, I knew I could always count on the UU exchange officer to get back to me (though sometimes after a couple of days) and offer me support.</p>
academic preparation	<p>I did not have to prepare academically, nor did I know with 100% certainty what courses I would be doing abroad. I did sign up for a number of them, but the final decision was only to be made when I arrived at Monash University. My main tip is to just make sure you do proper research into the courses available at your host university and to ensure you can argue that you have the knowledge or prerequisites necessary to join those courses. However, dare to take some risks in choosing as well. I was accepted into a third-level journalism and a third-level creative writing course whilst never having done either subject before, and it went fine. Exchanges are for trying things you can't do at home, right? Just know that you may have to do some extra work if you want to do well in those courses.</p>
language preparation	<p>All my courses were taught in English, which was not a problem for me. That's mostly because I've been studying in English at UCR for two years already, though. If you haven't had any experience studying in the spoken language of wherever you're going, consider taking some easier courses.</p>
finances	



I must admit that I've gone far over my set budget whilst on exchange. But that's mostly because I kept buying souvenirs and tickets to far-off cities, and expensive meals when I didn't have the time to cook. An important factor for me was that the grocery store was pretty far away, so I didn't really get the chance to cook for myself very often (or I was too lazy to). If you really want to keep to your budget, set some goals for yourself beforehand to make sure you know what you're getting into. Having a general overview of finances beforehand is really handy in any case – even if I didn't stick to mine at all. I had the luck that I had saved up some money from government study loans, but if you don't have that luxury make sure you always have a Plan B in case things get expensive.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Naturally the content of the programme depends entirely on what courses you pick, but I'm really happy with the ones I got to do. I personally did Broadcast Studio Journalism (which allowed me to learn about presenting through radio and TV); Screenwriting for Media Production (which allowed me to write a documentary and fiction film script); Advanced Fiction Writing (which allowed me to finally try out writing short stories and get academic feedback); and Managing Intercultural Communication (which allowed me to observe cultural difference through a linguistic lens). These courses fit into my own programme extremely well and they taught me heaps. I don't recall running into any organizational issues, apart from occasional late email replies.

#### academic quality of education activities

The general academic quality was not of the same standard as it is in the Netherlands. I had to work hard to keep up with some of my courses, but that's because I was taking third-year courses in subjects I'd never done before. Overall, I think the experience my friends had was that Monash University was of a lower academic standard and workload than we're used to at our home universities. The facilities at Monash, though, are incredible. There was a full-on radio- and tv-studio for journalism and the campus is so enormous I could (and did) have field trips to random buildings just to see where they were and how pretty they could be. I loved joining friends from other fields and checking out their facilities, which were endlessly breath-taking.

#### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't feel the need for counselling abroad because I was lucky enough to find a very lovely and supportive group of friends. However, there is free counselling available (up to a certain number of sessions) at Monash, and with your Overseas Health Insurance (which you're obliged to get to study there), doctor services are free to cheap, and very easily accessible on campus. The support at the campus residency offices was always great and I felt very safe at Monash. I don't think I ever contacted Monash Abroad after arriving, but that was always an option as well if I'd run into any trouble. It's a very safe and comfortable environment to go on exchange, whilst at the same time being very exciting and beautiful.

#### transfer of credits

I was really worried that my credits would not be transferred properly because I'd heard stories of other people running into trouble on that front. At Monash, though, transferring credits was very easy. My grades, once released, were put into a digital system which allowed me to send them directly home to UU. Upon checking with my Board of Examiners afterwards, it appeared all had gone smoothly on the first try and my transcript had been transferred. Even if it had gone wrong, I felt like there were plenty people I could contact who would have helped me fix that problem.

### STUDENT LIFE

#### welcome & orientation programme



The orientation programme at Monash was incredible. That was mostly because I lived on campus and my residential building had an entire two weeks of amazing activities planned across the campus and the city. In addition to that, there was also the slightly-less-cool-but-still-nice Monash general O-week, which had some fun activities you could join as well. I ended up joining movie nights and getting free food and going to an arcade and a trampoline hall and visiting several wildlife centres and doing city trips and being welcomed and introduced into the community in the best way possible. I had no idea an orientation program could be so much fun, but it was.

accommodation

I lived on campus at Monash University Clayton. A former exchange student had told me living on campus had made the exchange experience as great as it was for her, and because I would have been too stressed to move to Melbourne and then have to look for a place to stay somewhere, I decided campus might be for me as well. It is the best decision I have made. Beforehand at the pre-departure meeting, all the former exchanges said that they'd lived off-campus and enjoyed that so much because they were close to the city and experiencing real Melbourne life, but I wouldn't have had my accommodation any other way. I was welcomed into Howitt Hall by its residents and staff immediately and all my worries fell away. I know it's a bit of a cliché, but I really have made friends for life and, having returned from Australia now, am missing them more than I ever thought I'd miss any friend. The people in my building were relaxed and out-going and wonderful and they made my life in Australia all I could have ever asked for it to be. We went on a ghost tour and we travelled to different cities and we did roadtrips to the supermarket in the middle of the night and most of all, we just hung in the kitchen and the building's movie theatre and had a blast. I would recommend living on campus to anyone who is willing to spend a little extra money – which isn't even that much extra in most cases. The orientation program was awesome and the people were the best, and I had the most comfortable and great stay I could ever have wished for.

leisure & culture

I planned to stay until the end of the semester only and then travel home, but my sister (who had gone on exchange once as well) told me it wasn't worth going if you didn't travel through the country at least a little. So it was that I spent an extra two months traveling through Australia and New Zealand, and I would recommend that greatly. Don't fuss too much beforehand about what you're going to do – it's very likely that you'll make friends along the way and plan things with them. During the semester I spent a lot of time doing theatre in the Monash theatre group (another great decision thanks to which I made heaps of great friends) and just hanging out with my friends. There's always plenty to do on campus – whether it be parties, an actual carnival, a petting zoo, barbecues, or anything you can imagine, really – and even on the off days, there were wonderful people to do nothing with. I don't think I experienced any culture shock when arriving. Things in Australia are very easy-going and chill, and that wasn't tough for me to get used to. It's also a western society, which is very similar to the Dutch one. Only when returning to the busy and stressed Netherlands did I experience a form of culture shock and did I immediately want to take a flight back, which I think says enough about how amazing of a time I had abroad.

suggestions/tips

1. Again, I strongly recommend living on campus. It's a personal preference, but it is so much easier to make friends that way. I was fortunate enough to make some friends in class as well, but none of my friends had that luck. Generally, people just go to class to be in class and then they leave, disconnected. Living in halls is what let me make as good friends as I did – friends that were around me whenever we needed each other or whenever we were bored. Sharing a kitchen with people, in our case, made us like a perfect little multicultural family, and that was the core of my experience.

2. Join some clubs at the information market during O-Week! There's lots to do on campus and probably something for you in there.



3. If you have a driver's license, make sure to get it internationalized even if you don't think you'll be driving in Australia. Along with many fellow students, I really regretted not having my license with me there when we went on roadtrips and only had one driver for the very long trip. It's always good to have and cheap to get when you're still in the Netherlands! Once you've arrived in Australia, getting one isn't possible anymore.

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Absolutely. Monash is so helpful and clearly has a lot of experience with exchange students. It gives exchanges preference for on-campus living, which means that if you're on time and your record is clean, it's very easy to find a place to live, and the atmosphere and people were just perfect. I could not have asked for better support, more amazing activities, or greater people around me.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Make the most of it! Do whatever strikes your fancy and even if you have to give it up halfway through, at least you had a good time. And a tip my sister gave me which has been very valuable to me as well: Don't worry if sometimes you don't feel like doing anything. Don't skip out on the coolest activities, of course, but we all need a day in to watch Netflix sometimes. That's fine – after a day of that you'll be recharged and ready to face that glorious world again!



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Chemistry

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	16 / 7 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 11 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I had a hard time choosing a destination, because there are so many options! In the end I chose for an English speaking country and I looked at the ranking of the universities, especially in the area of chemistry. The application was quite easy: you have to write a motivation letter. In February you will hear the result. I got my first choice!
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht University's International Office is very helpful and you can always email them or drop by and they help you with every question.
academic preparation	I did not do any academic preparation.
language preparation	I did not to any language preeparation.
finances	I subrented my room and asked for a refund for my "OV-chipkaart" and I asked for a full student loan. But still this was not enough, Australia is very expensive and you do much more fun stuff than in the Netherlands so start saving some money before!

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Monash offers a lot of units. Apply to at least 6 units before so you know if they approve them. You can always change anything once you get there. In the end I did not take any chemistry courses (but other science courses), because it was hard to estimate how much pre-information I already had from Utrecht and one chemistry course I chose was very easy and covered a lot of things I already knew.
academic quality of education activities	There is much more group work and interaction in the classes. You also have many deadlines. It was not more difficult than in Utrecht, but there was much more study work. So I spend more time studying there than in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	Monash offers a lot of different support and they are very approachable and respond quickly. The first week



they give you a lot of helpful information so you know what to do and they organise many activities so it is easy to meet people.

transfer of credits

It is easy, you just have to make an account to get a transcript and then you email that to the International Office and then you let the Board of Examiners know they can find your transcript in Osiris.

### STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university and MOVE (Monash Overseas Club) organise a lot of activities during the first two weeks and I met many of my friends there. The university also gives much information and helps you with getting your courses and timetable fixed.

accommodation

Because Monash is quite far from the city, I decided not to live on campus. I would definitely recommend this. The first two weeks I stayed in a hostel, after which I got an apartment in Prahran that I shared with another student. Look on facebook and websites for rooms/apartments. Prahran is a really amazing area, around Chapel St, with lots of restaurants, shops and bars.

leisure & culture

I definitely recommend joining MOVE, they organise a lot of activities where you can meet the other exchange people. Also, I joined the Outdoors Club and Monash Boardriders (surf club and skate and snowboarding). I went on some really cool trips with them and it is an easy opportunity to meet other Australian students and to see some of the area around Melbourne.

suggestions/tips

Try to explore Melbourne and surroundings as much as possible, because the time really flies! And try to find and explore the secret hidden bars Melbourne has to offer!

### CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! Monash Clayton is a very beautiful campus with lots of green and modern buildings. Melbourne is an amazing city to live in, the people are very nice and there are so many things to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Join one of the many clubs Monash has to offer!






## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	'Sociale Wetenschappen'
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	14 / 02 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	13 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	I went to the pre-departure meeting and it helped me a lot with my preparation for my exchange at Monash University. Someone from the International Office explained what the steps of the application proces are and students who just came back from their exchange gave us tips and tricks. They all said that the application proces is a long one, with a lot of paper work. At the end it is definitely worth it.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I had a lot of questions along the way, because the application process is a difficult one, but don't hesitate to email the International Office with all your questions. They are willing to help!
academic preparation	I did research about what units I would like to do in Melbourne, there was a list on the Monash website with the units I, as an exchange student, could choose. You have to look at the unit description if there is any pre-knowledge required.
language preparation	Other than changing the language on my phone to English and reading more English books, I did no 'official' language preparation such as a test or course.
Finances	Utrecht University asked me to make a financial plan. Australia is expensive, but with my savings and money from my grandma's inheritance, I was able to afford my semester abroad.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I did 4 units from the Arts faculty (sociale wetenschappen in Utrecht); Criminology, Anthropology and two History units. I changed one of my units after the introduction period, that was easy to do. After the introduction week you have to hand in your 4 final units.
academic quality of education activities	Monash University surprised me in every way. The introduction week of the university, and the introduction weeks of my student house (Deakin Hall), were so much fun and well organized. The lectures during my semester abroad were very interesting and most of the tutors were motivating and knew a lot about the subject. The campus had everything; libraries, food, busses, big lecture halls. It was a very cool experiences to live and study on the Monash Clayton campus.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The tutors at the university and the mentors in my Hall helped me with everything. The support system at Monash is amazing.

transfer of credits

The transfer of my credits wasn't easy, because it wasn't so clear to me what to do and how to contact my Board of Examiners. But after all, I got the credits and my grades were well transferred.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

As I said before, the orientation weeks were the best weeks! They had so many fun activities; outdoor cinema, carnival, games, trips to the city and much more. The university gave a lot of information about the upcoming semester. If you want the best time during orientation week(s), you should definitely stay on campus and participate with your Hall's activities.

accommodation

I stayed on campus at Deakin Hall, it was the best decision! I made friends for life. The Clayton campus is far from Melbourne city, but the campus has everything you need. Going into the city takes a lot of time, but going to your lectures is just a short walk.

leisure & culture

With my Aussie friends I went to the city or did a road trip down the Great Ocean Road. With another exchange student from the UK I did my trips to Queensland and Indonesia. There is time to travel and explore Australia, but I studied more than I imagined I would and I enjoyed doing so.

suggestions/tips

Stay on campus! All the Halls are fun, but Deakin Hall was for me the best one!!!

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! Australia is beautiful. Monash University is a very very good university and they offer so many interesting units.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I think I said everything!



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Medicine
level	Bachelor
name study programme	Biomedical Sciences

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	07 /07/2018
end date	25/01 /2019

### PREPARATION

#### exchange application process

I didn't have any problems with the application process. Both the international office of the UU and the Monash University gave clear instructions. If I had any questions, I just sent them an email and received a response within one day.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office of my faculty was very helpful.

#### academic preparation

When applying for a unit, the Monash University will check if you meet the prerequisites for that unit. If so, you won't need any academic preparation.

#### language preparation

The main language in Australia is English, so all the units at Monash are taught in English. No language preparations were needed if your high school diploma grade for English is higher than a 6 out of 10.

#### finances

I received a 1000 euro scholarship from my own study to meet travel and housing costs.

### STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I really wanted to do medical imaging minor units at Monash. Unfortunately, I didn't meet the prerequisites for all the six units which I applied for. Therefore, I decided to apply for some language minor units, but I wasn't allowed to those units either because I wasn't at Monash a semester earlier. That's how I ended up doing biomedical sciences units because there wasn't another option. I chose 3 biomedical sciences units ( 2 x 7,5 ECTS and 1 x 15 ECTS ). When I met all my study mates at Monash we discussed everyone's choice of units. They all told me I made a super difficult selection of units and that it would be a lot of work during the semester. I decided to try it anyway, but after two weeks I decided to quit one unit because it was indeed an enormous amount of work which I had to do. It was really hard to not get behind on lectures, finish assignments and prepare for the lab sessions. That's not how I wanted to spend my time in Australia. I was a bit annoyed because I wasn't really able to choose another selection of units.

#### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was good, but very different compared to the UU. I think I learn more in a unit at the UU compared to the ones at Monash.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I haven't had any problems besides making my unit selection. It was all very clear what you were supposed to do. Their help centre on campus was super well organised and they offered a lot of possibilities to help.
transfer of credits
6 points at Monash = 7,5 ECTS

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
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welcome & orientation programme
The welcome programme was well organized and super useful. We had a lecture in which they gave us all the information and they showed us a part of the campus. I wasn't at the orientation programme, but they organized some activities which sound nice.
accommodation
I decided to live close to CBD. The idea of living on a campus located an hour from CBD didn't please me. To be honest, the campus is located in a boring area of Melbourne. However, I talked with some people who lived on campus and they really liked it, because there is a lot to do as in activities, and you meet other international students constantly. My rent was a bit more than the rent for a room on campus. I lived in a house with 35 other international students in the suburb Carlton. There is so much to do in Melbourne and it's such a lovely city, so if you're a person who likes to discover a city and to be close to things as clubs, bars, restaurants, museums, beautiful parcs etc. I would recommend to try to find something in or close to CBD.
leisure & culture
You could join a society at Monash or just join their activities. For example, I went to a surf camp and that was a lot of fun. Besides that, there is a lot to do in and around Melbourne. Day and weekend trips are super easy and super nice to do. I also used to sport a decent amount of time. Melbourne's nightlife is definitely not bad either.
suggestions/tips
Take into account that both Melbourne and Australia in general are expensive!!!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
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would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes! Melbourne is just an amazing city, and Australia an amazing country as well. The university is good. The campus is modern, clean and well organized.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	23 / 07 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	16 / 11 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	The application process was quite long especially as a UCR student because it meant I had to apply to UCR then UU and then Monash. It took even longer for me as I didn't get any of my initial three options. There are a lot of forms to fill out and Australia requires the extra Visa and OSHC applications. As long as you do them on time and well in advance of the deadlines, it shouldn't be too stressful.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I didn't feel like I needed much support but when I did have a question, I could email <a href="mailto:ubd.oo.region3@uu.nl">ubd.oo.region3@uu.nl</a> and receive an answer quickly.
academic preparation	No academic preparation was required.
language preparation	No language preparation was required as it was all in English.
finances	Due to the fact that I only knew I was going to Monash 2-3 months prior to departure, I had saved up too much money (like the student experiences document stated). However, I had sufficient funds and knew that I would have to limit my spending as much as possible. A lot of people warn you regarding how expensive Australia is but I personally thought it wasn't too bad. Some things are more expensive than the Netherlands, such as alcohol and some groceries. There are also lots of opportunities and plenty of time to work whilst you are in Australia and the average wage is a lot higher than the Netherlands.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	At Monash, I was part of the faculty of Arts and took units in Anthropology, Human Geography and Economics. There were a lot more units to choose from than my home university, which was quite overwhelming because all of them seemed so interesting. However, I felt as though there wasn't as much guidance regarding enrolment in units as my home university. For instance, you have to 'design' your own timetable but you might find out after enrolling in your four units that you can't take one of them because it clashes with another. If you do struggle, however, there are people you can go to to sort it out. Considering how many students there are at Monash, it is still based a lot on participation and discussion. This is because of the tutorials/ workshops that go alongside the lectures. I personally really liked how the units



were organised (having both lectures and tutorials) because it made it easier to ask any questions in your tutorials. Overall, I found the content of all four of my units extremely interesting and felt like I learnt a lot more in the subject areas that I am most interested in but which UCR do not cater.

academic quality of education activities

Although Monash is a highly ranked university, the workload and quality of education wasn't as high as I had expected. However, I do think this depends on your faculty (Sciences and Law, for example, may be more difficult). I also don't think the low workload took away from the amount you learnt, it just made it more manageable and enjoyable to do the assignments. This also meant that there were more opportunities to travel on the weekends without stressing about completing uni work. I felt as though it was easy to get high grades without putting too much work into assignments.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

They have a really good support system at Monash – they offer free counselling and Monash Abroad, Monash Connect, or your faculty are almost always available when necessary.

transfer of credits

This process has not been fulfilled yet.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The orientation programme is really extensive (2 weeks – 1 for exchange students and 1 for the whole university), which is a good thing as it allows you to adjust to the country before classes start and you meet a lot of people. If you decide to live on campus you will have more orientation activities with your residential hall as well. A lot of the activities were optional and those that were compulsory were really informative. I still recommend going to as many as possible because they can be fun and it's how you meet the most people.

accommodation

I decided to opt for living on campus after a recommendation from a friend who studies at the university. Personally I am really glad that I did but there are mixed opinions about it. Firstly, the university and thus the student accommodation is quite far from the city (about an 1 hour by public transport), which means it's quite a process to explore the city. Also, the accommodation is expensive, especially for what you get – it is roughly \$1000 per month for a fairly small and dated room (this depends on the building though). However, it is the best way to meet loads of people (halls of residence have their own orientation programme) and it's close to campus. Living on campus means you can join Monash Sport (which has a special deal for exchange students) and you get a lot of free meals (from your residential hall or at Wholefoods on Mondays). So overall I would say that living on campus is really fun and you meet a lot of great people, plus you will also have it sorted before you arrive in the country. If you decide to live on campus I recommend choosing Howitt (it has one of the best floor plans and the perfect mix of party and quiet). If you want a more party halls of residence go for Farrer and a quieter hall is Deakin. Avoid Richardson and Roberts as they have a really inconvenient floor plan (kitchen is shared amongst 200 people). There are also a lot of options to live off campus and the university is also willing to help you find suitable accommodation.

leisure & culture

Obviously Australia is a great country to travel around in. Melbourne is definitely the best city in Australia in my opinion with great culture and nightlife. There are heaps of museums and art galleries to explore as well as a lot of street art. However, the beaches close by are not as nice as other states in Australia. In Victoria there are also some great travel opportunities close by (Great Ocean Road, Phillip Island, Grampians, Wilsons Prom). During the mid semester break or after the semester, explore the rest of the country because it is beautiful and not something you can just go do once you return.



suggestions/tips

Get involved as much as possible! Go on/to the trips/events organised by Monash Abroad and MOVE! They take you to places that you probably wouldn't otherwise go and even though they might seem expensive, they are worth it and it would probably cost you the same or more if you go without them! Apart from that, enjoy your time as much as you can and take every opportunity to explore places/ go travelling! Also, make sure to get concession on your transport card because it saves a lot of money.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes! The university is highly ranked with a massive campus (compared to UCR) and Melbourne/ Australia is a great city/ country to live – there's a lot to do/ see and the people are really friendly.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Try to enjoy it as much as possible and don't stress about uni work too much! Take the opportunities to have fun and travel because you are likely to get good grades anyway!

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

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## UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	X bachelor's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	14/2/2019
end date	27/6/2019

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	It is a long process to apply for exchange for Monash University, but it's all worth it. I heard in February that I was accepted (so one year before I left), which was really early, which was nice. From then on I had to do nothing for six months, but the last half year before I left I had to take care of a lot of stuff: health care, housing, visum, flight, administration for uni, etc. It takes a lot of time to scan all your documents and send it to Australia, but Monash uni is well organised, so it all went well for me.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Honestly, UU is a bit slow with replying, which can be a bit annoying, but it never gave me any real struggles. It was nice to meet up with all the people that went to Monash as well, so I knew some people that went as well before I left.
academic preparation	Wasn't needed, if you're English is alright, you don't need to worry. I just had to mail my high school certificate to prove my English is alright.
language preparation	See above
finances	Australia is not very cheap, so I worked the whole summer before I left and I still had some money saved from my gap year. I also borrowed money from ome duo, cause especially the rent is expensive in Australia. If you want to go to Australia it is really important to save some money, haha. My flight was already 1000+ euros, so that was a pain. (but all worth it!!!) I must say though that I was actually surprised that groceries and eating out was not too expensive, probably even cheaper than in The Netherlands.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I was able to choose any year 1 unit (cause I put the exchange experience as my minor), so that was really nice. It was a little hard to make a selection, cause Monash has a lot of units, but it was nice that when I got there I was able to change units. In the end I chose Spanish I, Anthropology I, Indigenous Australia and Film studies. Those are all first year units, so it was pretty easy but really interesting. I would never do these kind of units at UU, so that was a nice experience! The organisation at Monah uni is really good, by the way. They help you out





really quick if you need some assistance.
academic quality of education activities
The units I took were pretty easy, mainly because they were first year units, I think. But it wasn't as if I was bored. The uni is very well organised, so they provide help with writing essays, you can always mail your tutor, and they give extensions for assignments if you need them. A really big difference between our way of tutorials and their way tutorials is, is that a tute is more like another lecture. I never had a lot of debates or presentations, so that's a pretty big difference.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Monash is really good with support, really organised, so there's always someone to help you.
transfer of credits
Was pretty easy, I send mine to UU once I got them (via this program called MyEquals), and when I started my 4 <sup>th</sup> year I could see them in Osiris, so that all went well.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
This was really one of the best two weeks I have experienced abroad. I lived on campus, so first I had a week of introduction in my hall, and then I had a week of introduction at Monash uni. They really put an effort in this and make you feel at home. For me the first week was the most fun, cause I got to know all the people at my hall, which stayed my friends till this day. The uni intro was also really nice, there was music, food, games, everything. They really make a big deal out of this, and it was a lot of fun.
accommodation
Even though most of the previous student reports said that they stayed in the city, I decided to stay on campus. I didn't really feel like looking for a home in a city I don't know, and with living on campus you kind of make sure you meet new people. This was definitely a good choice: I ended up in Richardson Hall, which I can recommend to everyone, honestly. So many lovely friendly people, great atmosphere; I felt at home right from the very first day. I met people there that became my best friends for life, and I miss them very much, haha. As said before I had a really nice introduction and throughout the whole year there were loads of activities (you were free to join, but didn't have to). Examples; a futsal tournament, cooking for each other, movie nights, going out together etc. etc. etc. Absolutely no regrets on this one!!! Cried my eyes out when I had to leave
leisure & culture
Melbourne is a great city, but the big problem with living on campus is, is that the campus is +/- an hour from the city centre, and the public transport is not too good. So if we went out, we mostly went to places near campus (which was actually a lot of fun). I spend most my weekends roadtripping around Melbourne or visiting Sydney/Tasmania. Australia is pretty similar to The Netherlands in many ways, so I didn't really have a culture shock or anything. If you go, get a frozen coke! That stuff is amazing.
suggestions/tips
So so so many. First of all, do as much as you can on the weekends - trip wise. So work on uni for one weekend, and go on a trip the other weekend. Go and do Great Ocean Road, Grampians, Sydney, Tasmania if you've got the time. Byron Bay/Noosa was really nice in the mid semester break. It's pretty easy to rent a car, just drive someplace nice! Cook together with other people to save money. Do all your groceries for the rest of the week, so you don't have to go to the supermarket every day. Visit New Zealand afterwards, it's so pretty!! Rent a car, drive around, meet some crazy people.



## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, definitely. Had some of the best months of my life here, and would do it again in a second. For me personally, Richardson Hall was a very big part of it, so I would recommend living on campus. Monash university is really good as well. The only downside is that the campus is very far from the city centre, so if you really want to live in the city campus might not be a good option. I just valued the security of new friendships over living in the city I guess.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go on exchange. Doesn't matter if you choose Monash or not, but it is such a good experience, and (as everyone probably says) one of the best experiences of your life. And if you do go to Monash and campus, Richo is the place to be!!!!

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Law
Level:	Bachelor
Name degree programme:	Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid

Destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Monash University
Purpose of exchange	Study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	4 February 2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	13 August 2018

<b>Preparation</b>
Exchange/placement application process: Monash hadn't really caught my attention until my first three options didn't work out and I needed to choose three new destinations for my application. After approval from both your home and host university there are several forms to fill out. Your student visa in Australia also requires you to buy an Overseas Student Health Coverage, which Monash offers itself. I found it most convenient to just purchase Monash's health insurance instead of buy it with one of the other providers. The forms take a little while to fill out but overall the process didn't take too long and everything goes smoothly.
Counselling/support at home university: Emailing with <a href="mailto:ubd.oo.region3@uu.nl">ubd.oo.region3@uu.nl</a> usually helped me out really well, although sometimes a reply can take a few days but that wasn't really a problem. I felt that my questions could usually be answered quite well.
Academic preparation: None
Language preparation: None. A good grade for English on your VWO transcript suffices as proof of language proficiency for Monash, which is very convenient.
Finances: I saved up in the months leading up to my departure and was lucky to have some savings already. I was warned about the prices in Australia and prepared for the worst. As a result I'd now say the prices aren't actually as bad as you'd think. Sure, groceries, for example, will be slightly more expensive than groceries in Holland but the difference is really not that big. In total I had about 9000 euro when I left. I've done a lot of fun stuff and have not really passed on anything big for the sake of money, but right now my time in Australia is coming to an end and luckily I can still



afford to go travelling after my studies before I head back to the Netherlands. So with regard to the expenses in Australia I'd say make sure you have some decent savings and you'll be fine.

During my stay I think I would have found time to work a couple of hours a week for some extra money, but I didn't do so because I wanted to make the most of my time here and there was no urgent need for it. Of course making money in Australia is much more efficient than making it back home and then spending it here, but only if you can spare the time.

### **Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

I took (as a third-year at UU), two first-year, one second-year and one third-year unit at Monash. Overall I was happily surprised that the education revolves much more around conversation and discussion in the classroom, rather than the working out of exercises (which is what I'm used to in Law in Utrecht). I felt that the units really dove into the content and encouraged the students to think about it more actively. The third-year unit was most definitely at a higher level than the first-year ones, of course, but I'd say it was comparable to the education you receive at UU.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

During orientation week students enrol in the units they want (which are usually the ones you receive pre-approval for during the application process), and afterwards you can choose your own timeslots online. I had to figure this out as I went, because I felt it wasn't really explained very well during Orientation or elsewhere, but I found that Monash will gladly help with whatever questions you have, if you just go by campus or e-mail or call them.

Quality wise, the staff are always very helpful and involved in the education. I personally thought the quality of education was quite high and students were very involved in keeping it that way. I studied in the Arts faculty and there was a lot of protest happening surrounding the cuts that had recently been made to the department. Apparently tutorial group sizes went up and the amount of lecture/tutorial hours had gone down, which of course stirred some discussion. Both teachers and students showed to be passionate about the quality of education. Regardless of those cuts, however, the content of the units was still very engaging and the classes were well-organized.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Monash has a great support system for exchange students. E-mailing Monash Abroad always resulted in clear and fast answers to my questions and I felt like the exchange students were looked after well.

Transfer of credits:

I have not transferred my credits yet as I don't have the results for my exams back yet, so there is no transcript of records to send to the Board of Examiners.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

There are two separate orientation weeks that occur after one another: Orientation for exchange students, and O-week for all Monash students. During the first orientation I felt that there was a lot of attention for us as exchange students. There were activities that helped you get to know the campus, and other students.

It's nice to be able to start your studies at such a calm pace during O-week, the second orientation



week. It really gave everyone time to get settled in. O-week sometimes felt a little unnecessary as there was a lot of introduction for first-year students: how studying at Uni is different from High School and so on, which was silly for exchange students to 'have to' attend. But there weren't that many obligatory events so overall it wasn't too much trouble.

Accommodation:

Monash's main campus is Clayton, which is about 45 minutes by train and bus from Melbourne's CBD, the city centre. Most of the courses I found interesting were held there so in the end I just only picked classes that were on Clayton. (It should, if necessary, be possible to study units at both Clayton and Caulfield campus, with a free shuttle between the two). However, I didn't have many contact hours so I found it very doable to live in the city (Carlton) and travel to campus and back on the three days a week that I did have class. Rent in Melbourne is paid per week, and this room (shared with one other person) cost 180 AUD a week. This was cheap for a place so close to CBD, if you prefer a private room be prepared to pay a little more.

I found a house through Gumtree and also used several Facebook groups. It takes a little effort but finding a house that fits your needs really is possible. It might seem easy to just say yes to the first decent offer that comes your way, just so that you have somewhere to stay, but really take your time and I'm sure you'll find a place you'll actually like a lot.

I stayed in a hostel (Nate's Place) during the first two weeks of my stay in Melbourne and found it very comfortable to look for longer-term housing from there. Of course classes hadn't started by the time I got to move into the house in Carlton so living in a hostel was not much of a problem.

I didn't want on-campus housing, because I felt that if I was going to live in a big city like Melbourne, I actually wanted to be close to the city centre. I'm happy with my accommodation but also know people that had a great time on-campus. If you have to be on campus a lot I'd save the trouble of commuting there and maybe opt for the housing on Clayton campus, or otherwise look for a house in the neighbourhood, which is where a lot of students live.

Leisure/culture:

Melbourne is a very cultural city and there's always something entertaining going on. Be sure to explore the various neighbourhoods, activities and nightlife, there is so much to do! When the weather is good definitely go to either St Kilda or Brighton Beach, as winter is cold in Melbourne and you should make good use of the warm days that you do have.

I'm also happy I used both mid-semester break and SWOT-vac (before exams) to go on holiday: this is perfectly doable if you keep up your studies during the semester, and many exchange students feel the pressure of using the free weeks to go on holiday.

Suggestions/tips:

Get your student concession on your Myki (public transport card), just ask at Monash Connect and they'll help you. Join one or two uni clubs and see if their activities are fun. Make the most of your stay by really trying to experience what the city has to offer!

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes. Monash is a very nice university, with a beautiful campus (albeit a little far from the city), involved students and teaching staff, lots of activities and great support. Melbourne is equally



wonderful: there's something for everyone. It's impossible to be bored in Melbourne or at Monash.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Your time on exchange really will come to an end before you know it, so be sure to experience as much new things as you can! Enjoy.

**Contact details Student Services / International Office**

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

[exchange@gdesk.uu.nl](mailto:exchange@gdesk.uu.nl) (information) / [verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl](mailto:verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl) (report)

[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)